

(b) whether the Government propose to encourage setting up of more branches of foreign banks in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in regard thereto so far; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). The details of the branches of foreign banks opened in the country during 1995 and 1996, as reported by RBI, are given below :

SL. NO.	NAME OF THE BANK	PLACE	DATE OF OPENING
1995			
1.	Credit Lyonnais	Ahmedabad	18.2.95
2.*	Development Bank of Singapore	Mumbai	15.3.95
3.	Bank of Bahrain & Kuwait	Hyderabad	25.3.95
4.	Banque Nationale de Paris	Bangalore	05.7.95
5.*	Dresdner Bank	Mumbai	21.8.95
6.	ABN Amro Bank	Madras	15.9.95
7.*	Bank of Ceylon	Madras	30.10.95
8.	Banque Nationale de Paris	Pune	03.7.95
9.	Societe Generale	Bangalore	23.11.95
10.*	Commerczbank	Mumbai	01.12.95
11.*	Siam Commercial Bank	Mumbai	14.12.95
1996			
1.*	Bank International Indonesia	Mumbai	04.4.96
2.*	China Trust Commercial Bank Ltd.	New Delhi	08.4.96
3.*	Arab Bangladesh Bank	Mumbai	06.4.96
4.*	Cho Hung Bank	Mumbai	06.5.96
5.*	Fuzi Bank	Mumbai	20.5.96

* These banks have opened their first branch in India and are new foreign banks. The others are additional branches opened by foreign banks already operating in India.

Requests from foreign banks for having a presence in India have to be considered taking into account, inter alia, the principles of reciprocity, financial position and soundness of the bank, its branch network across the globe, capital and assets size, international standing of the bank in the country of its incorporation, national

advantage and economic and financial/trade relations between two countries, the system, obtaining in the country on supervision of banks etc.

Pending Cases

*249. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a review has been made of the follow-up action taken regarding the recommendations made in the Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices held on December 4, 1993 under the Chairmanship of the then Prime Minister;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the number of new posts of judges created in the courts during each of the last three years, court-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The progress made in the implementation of the recommendations in the Resolution adopted by the Chief Ministers and Chief Justices in their meeting held on 4 December, 1993 was reviewed by the Law Ministers at their Plenary Meetings held in Calcutta on 17 November 1994 and in Hyderabad on 25 November 1995.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) A Statement is attached.

STATEMENT

Sl.	High Court	No. of new posts agreed to be created			
		1993	1994	1995	1996 (upto 30.6.96)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Allahabad	-	-	-	-
2.	Andhra Pradesh	-	-	-	3
3.	Bombay	-	-	-	-
4.	Calcutta	-	-	-	-
5.	Delhi	-	-	-	-
6.	Gauhati	-	-	-	-
7.	Gujarat	-	6	-	-
8.	Himachal Pradesh	-	-	-	6
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	-	-	-	-
10.	Karnataka	-	-	10	-
11.	Kerala	-	5	-	-
12.	Madhya Pradesh	-	-	-	-
13.	Madras	-	-	10	-

1	2	3	4	5	6
14.	Orissa	-	-	-	-
15.	Patna	-	-	-	-
16.	Punjab	7	-	-	-
17.	Rajasthan	-	-	-	-
18.	Sikkim	-	-	-	-
TOTAL		7	11	20	9

Balance of Trade

*250. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :
DR. G.R. SARODE :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated gap between the values of import and export made during 1996-97;

(b) the estimated gap between the first three months of the current year;

(c) whether the main reason for widening of this gap is the import value being more than the export value;

(d) if so, the increase or decrease in the value of imports and exports as compared to that in the corresponding months of the last year; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to improve the position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). The trade deficit (the gap between value of imports and exports for the current financial year is estimated as US \$ 0.938 billion during April-June 1996, the latest period for which provisional data from DGCI&S is available. As regards the trade gap for the whole of 1996-97, it is expected to be significantly lower than \$4.53 billion recorded during 1995-96

(c) and (d). During April-June 1996 exports have registered a growth of 14.4% in dollar terms while imports have shown a growth of 14.3% over the corresponding period in the previous year.

(e). The key to reducing trade deficit lies in accelerated export growth. Export promotion measures are continuously being taken by the Government through policy and promotional schemes. These include simplification of Export Import Policy procedures, improving efficiency and competitiveness, focussing on quality and technology upgradation, efforts to actively involve the State Governments in export promotion. Export promotion is a continuing activity based on interaction with industry, trade and other export promotional institutions.

Tax Exemption to Small Scale Industries

*251. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Small Scale Industries in the country are given exemptions in various taxes, etc; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Under Section 80 HHA of the Income Tax Act, small scale industrial undertakings are allowed a deduction of 20 percent on their profits and gains, subject to the fulfillment of various conditions as laid down in that section. Further, such undertakings are eligible for deductions ranging from 20 to 25 percent under Section 80-I/80IA of the above Act on their profit and gains.

Excise duty exemption is allowed to Small Scale Industries as follows :-

Value of Clearance	Exemption
Upto Rs. 30 lakhs turnover	Full Exemption from excise duty
Above Rs. 30 lakhs turnover, but upto Rs. 50 lakhs	Normal Duty minus 10 per cent subject to a minimum of 5 per cent
Above Rs. 50 lakhs turnover, but upto Rs. 75 lakhs	Normal duty minus 5 per cent subject to a minimum of 5 per cent

In addition, certain commodity specific schemes are also available under which excise duty concessions are provided to small scale industrial units manufacturing specific goods.

Extra Charges By Banks to Compute Easier

*252. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "charging extra to compute easier Banks round off to net Rs. 300 Cr." appearing in the *Economic Times*, New Delhi dated March 18 1996;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps taken to check such unbefitting activities of the banks?